

Ezra 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

Analysis

Ezra quotes divine prohibition: 'Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations.' This cites prophetic warnings (not direct Moses quotations but summarizing themes from Leviticus 18, Deuteronomy 7). The land's 'uncleanness' came from inhabitants' practices. The phrase 'which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness' pictures complete pollution. God warned against assimilating such practices.

Historical Context

The prophetic warnings summarized here draw from passages like Leviticus 18:24-28 (land vomiting out inhabitants due to sexual immorality), Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (prohibition on intermarriage with Canaanites), and various prophets who warned against adopting pagan practices. The 'filthiness' and 'abominations' refer specifically to idolatry and associated practices—temple prostitution, child sacrifice, divination. These weren't merely cultural differences but moral evils God explicitly forbade. The land itself was depicted as contaminated by such practices, requiring cleansing.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does depicting the land as 'unclean' emphasize the serious moral pollution of idolatrous practices?
2. What does God's clear prohibition through prophets demonstrate about having adequate warning before judgment?

Interlinear Text

אָשָׁר	רְצָוָת	צָוָה	בְּנֵי	עֲבָדָה	יְהִי	בְּנֵי	הַנּוֹבִיאִים	פָּנָבִיאִים	לֹא מֹרֶךְ
H834	Which thou hast commanded	H6680		by	H3027	thy servants	H5650	the prophets	saying
רַקְבָּאָצָה	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם	בְּאַיִם
The land	H834	H859	unto which ye go	to possess	H3423	The land	H776	H776	H776
עַמְּתִּים	בְּנֵי תְּהִוָּת	הַיָּא	בְּנֵי תְּהִוָּת	עַמְּתִּים	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ	רַקְבָּאָצָה	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ	רַקְבָּאָצָה	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ
it is an unclean	H1931	it is an unclean	of the people	The land	H5971	H776	H776	H776	H776
בְּתֻועַבְתִּים	מְלָא וְ	אָשָׁר	בְּתֻועַבְתִּים	מְלָא וְ	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ	רַקְבָּאָצָה	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ	רַקְבָּאָצָה	וְתִּרְשַׁתְּהַ
with their abominations	H8441	H834	which have filled	it from one end	H4390	H6310	H413	H413	H413
בְּטַמְאָתֶם:	בְּטַמְאָתֶם:								
it from one end	H6310								
with their uncleanness		H2932							

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 6:21 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,

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